

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 17 with the following rewritten version:

-- A seasoning processing system according to the first aspect of the present invention includes comprises a dispersing means and a packaging means. The dispersing means disperses from a dispersing mouth powdered seasoning to be adhered to supplied intermediate articles. The packaging means disposes and packages inside a bag shaped packaging material the seasoned articles to which the powdered seasoning has been adhered. Further, the dispersing mouth of the dispersing means is provided and arranged so that it is positioned inside the bag shaped packaging material. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 25 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the first aspect of the present invention, because the powdered seasoning is dispersed inside the bag shaped packaging material, the dispersed powdered seasoning favorably adheres to the intermediate articles supplied inside the bag shaped packaging material, thus readily obtaining seasoned articles. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 25 with the following rewritten version:

-- The seasoning processing system according to the second aspect of the present invention is the system of the first aspect of the present invention, wherein the dispersing means comprises a first electrical charging means that electrically charges the powdered seasoning. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1 with the following rewritten version:

-- In the second aspect of the present invention, because the powdered seasoning is electrically charged by the first electrical charging means, the powdered seasoning more favorably adheres to the intermediate articles due to the electrostatic effect. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 5 with the following rewritten version:

-- The seasoning processing system according to the third aspect of the present invention is the system of the first invention or the second aspect of the present invention, wherein the packaging means has a former, a longitudinal sealing means, and a transverse sealing means. The former tubularly bends a strip packaging material. The longitudinal sealing means welds the overlapped edge parts of the packaging material tubularly bent by the former. The transverse sealing means welds in the transverse direction and forms in a bag shape the tubular packaging material while moving together with the tubular packaging material from an upstream position to a downstream position. Further, the dispersing mouth of the dispersing means is provided and arranged at a position more on the upstream side of the upstream position where the transverse sealing means begins welding. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the third aspect of the present invention, the dispersing mouth that disperses the powdered seasoning is provided and arranged at a position on the upstream side of the position where the welding by the transverse sealing means begins, and the dispersing mouth can consequently be installed fixedly. Accordingly, the structure of the dispersing means is simplified. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 22 with the following rewritten version:

-- The seasoning processing system according to the fourth aspect of the present invention is the system of the third aspect of the present invention, wherein a substitute gas passageway that introduces substitute gas inside the bag shaped packaging material is provided inside the former. This substitute gas passageway also serves as the passageway for the powdered seasoning of the dispersing means. Further, a downstream side opening of the substitute gas passageway also serves as the dispersing mouth of the dispersing means. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the fourth aspect of the present invention, the downstream side opening of the substitute gas passageway is made to also serve as the dispersing mouth that disperses the powdered seasoning, and therefore additional members or fabrication for installing the dispersing mouth is omitted, thus achieving a low cost seasoning processing system. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6 with the following rewritten version:

-- The seasoning processing system according to the fifth aspect of the present invention is the system of the first ~~invention~~ or the second aspect of the present invention, wherein the packaging means has a former, a longitudinal sealing means, and a transverse sealing means. The former tubularly bends a strip packaging material. The longitudinal sealing means welds the overlapped edge parts of the packaging material tubularly bent by the former. The transverse sealing means welds in the transverse direction and forms in a bag shape the tubular packaging material while moving together with the tubular packaging material from an upstream position to a downstream position. In addition, the seasoning processing system according to the fifth invention further comprises a transferring means.

The transferring means causes the dispersing mouth of the dispersing means to penetrate between the upstream position and the downstream position where the transverse sealing means moves, and, when the transverse sealing means is at the upstream position, to withdraw the dispersing mouth of the dispersing means to a position on the upstream side of that upstream position. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the fifth aspect of the present invention, because the dispersing mouth of the dispersing means is, for example, moved downstream by the transferring means during the movement of the transverse sealing means to the downstream position and because the dispersing mouth is positioned at a position in the vicinity of the intermediate articles supplied inside the bag shaped packaging material, the dispersed powdered seasoning can be favorably adhered to the intermediate articles. In this case, because the dispersing mouth is further spaced apart from the downstream side end part of the former, the area of the apparatus to be cleaned is further reduced, thus improving cleanability. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 7 with the following rewritten version:

-- The seasoning processing system according to the sixth aspect of the present invention is the system of any one of invention ~~from the second invention through the fifth aspects of the present~~ invention, wherein the dispersing means disperses the powdered seasoning within a prescribed time period during the operating cycle performed by the transverse sealing means. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 12 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the sixth aspect of the present invention, because the powdered seasoning is dispersed within a prescribed time period during the operating cycle of the transverse sealing means, it is unnecessary to separately ensure a time period for dispersing the powdered seasoning within one series of a bag manufacturing cycle, thus enabling the sustained acceleration of the packaging means. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 18 with the following rewritten version:

-- For example, if the dispersing mouth is provided and arranged at a position on the upstream side of the upstream position where the transverse sealing means begins welding, as in the third aspect of the present invention, then the powdered seasoning should be dispersed during the supply of the intermediate articles into the bag shaped packaging material. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23 with the following rewritten version:

-- However, in the case of the arrangement according to a case like the fifth aspect of the present invention, the powdered seasoning should be dispersed after the supply of the intermediate articles into the bag shaped packaging material. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 26 with the following rewritten version:

-- The seasoning processing system according to the seventh aspect of the present invention is the system of any one of invention from the second invention through the sixth aspects of the present invention, wherein the transverse sealing means comprises a pair of sealing jaws that pinch and weld the tubular packaging material. In addition, the seasoning processing system according to the seventh invention further comprises a second electrical charging means. The second electrical charging means forms an electric field between the

pair of sealing jaws and electrically charges the packaging material with a prescribed polarity.

--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 5 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the seventh aspect of the present invention, if the powdered seasoning is electrically charged and dispersed, then the powdered seasoning and the packaging material will repel one another because the powdered seasoning and the packaging material are electrically charged with the same polarity. Accordingly, it is possible to prevent the powdered seasoning from getting caught in the transverse seal part of the packaging material, thus achieving a reliable transverse seal part. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 19 with the following rewritten version:

-- The seasoning processing system according to the eighth aspect of the present invention is the system of any one of invention ~~from the first invention~~ through ~~the seventh~~ aspects of the present invention, further comprising a shaking means. The shaking means shakes the packaged bag formed by disposing and packaging said seasoned articles into the bag shaped packaging material. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 24 with the following rewritten version:

-- According to the eighth aspect of the present invention, the seasoned articles and the powdered seasoning inside the bag are more favorably mutually mixed, thus obtaining seasoned articles that are more uniformly seasoned. --